



Mental Health Drug Prospective Drug Utilization Review (proDUR) Edits

Background: Nationally, much attention has been focused on monitoring the prescribing of psychotropic medications in children. Various agencies including the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) have been working collaboratively with states to strengthen their systems of prescribing and monitoring use of psychotropic medication among children, specifically in foster care (with the passage of the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act of 2011 [P.L.112-34]). There have been many reports and resources released including the September 20, 2013 American Psychiatric Association list of specific uses of antipsychotic medications that are common, but potentially unnecessary and sometimes harmful, as part of the Choosing Wisely® campaign.

Various issues associated with the use of antipsychotic medication in children and adults have been noted in profile review and focused on in educational initiatives to prescribers by the Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Commission for several years. This includes prescribing outside of FDA-approved product labeling for indication, age, dosage, or duration of therapy, polypharmacy and safety and efficacy.

Educational initiatives in the form of letters to prescribers of the individual patients and DUR Digest articles regarding this topic have not had an impact on the prescribing practice. The DUR Commission, in consultation with the Medicaid Mental Health Advisory Group (MHAG), which are both composed of practicing pharmacist and physicians, including psychiatrists, recommended the Department implement edits on antipsychotic medications in April 2012.

ProDUR Edits

1. **Age Edit:** Apply an age edit on risperidone for members less than five (5) years of age and an age edit on all other antipsychotics for members less than six (6) years of age.
2. **Duplicate Antipsychotic Therapy:** Apply edits that prevent duplicate antipsychotic therapy for members less than 18 years of age initially, then the same edit will be applied to 18 and older in the second phase (4-6 months after the first).

When the proDUR edits are applied to a claim, the claim will deny if the age of the member falls below the set age and will also deny if the member is on more than one antipsychotic medication. In order for the claim to process, a prior authorization (PA) must be submitted and approved.

Implementation — Prior to the initiation of these edits, the following steps will be taken:

1. **Committees:** This will be an October 2014 refresher agenda item for the DUR and the MHAG meetings.
2. **Provider Communication:** An Informational Letter will be sent to all providers including discharge planners, to encourage changes to drug regimen or submission of a PA prior to implementation of the edits and prior to discharge.
3. **Soft Edits:** Initiate soft edits to the pharmacy indicating the claim(s) will deny for a PA at a specific date indicated, should prompt the pharmacy to notify the prescriber.
4. **Prescriber Communication:** The IME will produce a report of members impacted and notify those prescribers of their patients that will be impacted by the change, specifics about the change and the proposed effective date.